

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

ITEM

23

DECISION

TOPIC **Notice of Intended Action – Chapter 571 – 108 “Mink, Muskrat, Raccoon, Badger, Opossum, Weasel, Striped Skunk, Fox (Red and Gray), Beaver, Coyote, River Otter, Bobcat, Gray (Timber) Wolf and Spotted Skunk Seasons**

The Commission is requested to approve this Notice of Intended Action to amend Chapter 571 – 108 “Mink, Muskrat, Raccoon, Badger, Opossum, Weasel, Striped Skunk, Fox (Red and Gray), Beaver, Coyote, River Otter, Bobcat, Gray (Timber) Wolf and Spotted Skunk Seasons.” Chapter 571 – 108 sets the season dates, bag limits, possession limits and areas open to hunting or trapping furbearers.

The amendments add Harrison, Monona, Pottawattamie and Woodbury counties to the counties open for taking bobcat. The amendments also increase the quota from 400 to 500 for river otters and from 150 to 200 for bobcats. The amendments eliminate the restrictions on beaver trapping in Linn County.

Ken Herring, Administrator
Conservation and Recreation Division
March 13, 2008

Attachment: Chapter 108, Furbearer Seasons NOIA

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION [571]
Notice of Intended Action

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code subsection 455A.5(6), the Natural Resource Commission hereby gives Notice of Intended Action to amend Chapter 571 – 108 “Mink, Muskrat, Raccoon, Badger, Opossum, Weasel, Striped Skunk, Fox (Red and Gray), Beaver, Coyote, River Otter, Bobcat, Gray (Timber) Wolf and Spotted Skunk Seasons,” Iowa Administrative Code.

This rule sets the season dates, bag limits, possession limits and areas open to hunting and trapping furbearers.

The amendments add Harrison, Monona, Pottawattamie and Woodbury counties to the area open for taking bobcat. The amendments also increase the quota from 400 to 500 for river otters and from 150 to 200 for bobcats. The amendments eliminate the restrictions on beaver trapping in Linn county.

Any interested person may make written suggestions or comments on the proposed amendments on or before April 29, 2008. Written comments may be directed to the Wildlife Bureau's website at www.iowadnr.gov or may be sent to the Wildlife Bureau Chief, Department of Natural Resources, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034; fax (515) 281-6794. Persons who wish to convey their views orally should contact the Wildlife Bureau at (515) 281-5034 or at the Wildlife Bureau offices on the fourth floor of the Wallace State Office Building. Also, there will be public hearings held at 18 locations via the Iowa Communications Network on April 29, 2008. Interested persons should contact the department at (515) 281-5918 for a list of hearing locations or go to the department's website at www.iowadnr.gov. At the hearings, persons may present their views either orally or in writing. At the hearings, persons will be asked to give their names and addresses for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of the amendments.

Any persons who intend to attend the public hearings and have special requirements such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments should contact the Department of Natural Resources and request specific accommodations.

These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 481A.6 481A.38, 481A.39, 481A.87 and 481A.90.

The following amendments are proposed.

ITEM 1. Amend subrule 571 – 108.7(2) as follows:

108.7(2) Open area. River otters may be taken statewide. Bobcats may be taken in the following counties: Adams, Appanoose, Clarke, Davis, Decatur, Des Moines, Fremont, Harrison, Henry, Jefferson, Lee, Lucas, Mills, Monona, Monroe, Montgomery, Page, Pottawattamie, Ringgold, Taylor, Union, Van Buren, Wapello, ~~and~~ Wayne, and Woodbury.

ITEM 2. Amend subrule 571 – 108.7(3) as follows:

108.7(3) Quotas and seasonal bag limit.

- a. Seasonal bag limit. The seasonal bag limit is 2 river otters and 1 bobcat per person.
- b. Quotas. The quota for the number of river otters that may be taken is ~~400~~ 500 statewide. The quota for the number of bobcats that may be taken is ~~150~~ 200 in the open area. The season shall end for river otters when the number of river otters trapped, as determined by the harvest reporting system, reaches ~~400~~ 500. The season shall end for bobcats when the number of bobcats taken, as determined by the harvest reporting system, reaches ~~150~~ 200. Trappers shall be allowed

a 48-hour grace period after the quota is reached to clear their traps of river otters or bobcats. River otters or bobcats found in traps during the grace period may be kept even though the quota is exceeded provided that the trapper has not reached the trapper's personal bag limit. River otters or bobcats trapped after the grace period or in excess of the seasonal bag limit must be turned over to the department; the trapper shall not be penalized.

ITEM 3. Strike subrule 571 – 108.9(2):

~~108.9(2) Trapping near beaver lodges and dens. There will be no trapping within ten yards of active or inactive beaver lodges or dens in certain areas described as those portions of the Cedar River and Indian Creek floorplains enclosed by Highways 30, 151, Business 151 and I 380 in Linn County.~~

Date

Richard A. Leopold, Director

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